

Sandy Beaucage: Stellar Volunteer at Camp Long

Government and non-profit agencies often gauge volunteer help in hours. For volunteer extraordinaire Sandy Beaucage, that insufficient unit of measure would have to be increased to years or decades.

Sandy has been a volunteer for more than 25 years at Camp Long in West Seattle, and earlier this year the Associated Recreation Council recognized her 25 years of outstanding service to the Camp Long Advisory Council.

Sandy has held every office of the advisory council and though she is no longer an official member, she continues her enthusiastic participation.

Without fail, Sandy offers friendly and efficient customer service to the public and staff alike. Every Tuesday, she comes in for two to three hours to help answer voicemail messages that have accumulated over the weekend. Over the years, she has offered free nature classes, and tot walks. She still helps staff with special events with her decorating and organizing skills, and helps set up and clean up, bake cookies and staff tables. This year she is co-chair of the Nature of Halloween program.

Among her many other helpful acts, Sandy also serves as liaison with the Totem Council Girls Scouts' Chinook Day Camp which has been held at Camp Long for decades. She volunteers for two weeks every year during day camp, and arranges for their annual donation to Camp Long.

Much of the work Sandy performs has long-term



value. Many of the specimens used in Camp Long education programs were prepared and ordered by Sandy. This fall, she will take an inventory of all the specimens at Camp Long, assessing the need for repairs and making recommendations for additional taxidermy orders.

Because of her longevity at Camp Long, Sandy offers a vital connection to the past—she is fiercely protective of Camp Long's legacy and mission—while looking toward the future. She continues her advocacy for Camp Long and Seattle Parks and Recreation with the Garden Club, and local groups and businesses in West Seattle.

Ken's Corner

Read This: Man Bites Cat!

I know: budgets and city finances don't make for the most entertaining reading, but I'll try to be brief and to the point.

First of all, if you'd like to comment on the budget, the final City Council public hearing will be on Thursday, Nov. 3, 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget for 2006 includes the following changes to the 2006 budget that the City Council "endorsed" last year (2006 is the second year of the 2005-06 biennial budget cycle).

- **Green Seattle Tree Replacement:** In early September, Mayor Nickels issued an executive order requiring two-for-one replacement of any trees removed by City maintenance or development projects. The Proposed

Budget provides \$170,000 for tree plantings in the downtown area.

- **Late Night Recreation Changes:** A "budget neutral" change to this important program would reduce the number of sites from seven to six (Southwest changes from two sites on Friday and Saturday nights to one site each

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Annual Meeting On Nov. 9

You are invited to the Superintendent's Annual Meeting with Advisory Council Members. This year's meeting, which includes dinner, will focus on the modernization process, the 2006 budget, and 2005 accomplishments.

Of course it's always nice to renew friendships and make new acquaintances!

Join Superintendent Ken Bounds, the Associated Recreation Council Board and staff, and advisory council members from around the city on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005, 6:30 p.m. at Southwest Community Center, 2801 SW Thistle St.

South Park on Rebound— Thanks to Community Center

The past year has been a rough one for South Park—two teen-agers were shot and killed in that period, leaving the community in collective shock—but the with help of the South Park Community Center staff and Advisory Council, the neighborhood has begun to bounce back.

In May 2005, Mayor Greg Nickels launched the South Park Initiative to make key improvements to the neighborhood, focusing on public safety and building community. Seattle Parks and Recreation joined a City team of agencies including the Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Public Utilities, Human Services Department, Seattle Department of Transportation, and Seattle Police.

"Parks was a major player in this effort because of the community center and long-held connections in the community," says Christopher Williams, Parks Operations Division Director. "Our charge was to strengthen these ties and wherever possible create new and lasting partnerships."

Staff at the center, particularly coordinator Mike Domingo, assistant coordinator Carmen Rodriguez-Orton and teen development leader Carmen Martinez, redoubled their outreach efforts through active recruitment and engagement with community members, and the results have been remarkable. Programs for kids, teens and adults at the community center have more than quadrupled and the center and grounds are bustling as never before.

"We've taken a positive, active approach to (the community troubles)," says Carmen Martinez, who has recruited "at risk" and other youth to the center. "The fruits of our labor are beginning to show. I think we're making a huge difference."

As one example, Carmen cites the South Park

Bicycle Club in partnership with Bikeworks and Trips for Kids Seattle, for youth age 11 to 19. The club was so popular when introduced in the summer, the community center added another session this fall. Club members design and modify their bikes in the popular "low-rider" style.

The community center will also extend its popular movie night, held outside during the summer, through the fall and winter in the gym. The movie series will be held once a month and feature teen-oriented movies.

Carmen says about six or seven new teens are coming to the center each week.

The center also added many more classes for elementary school age children and a completely new slate of programs for adults including Spanish, yoga, ESL, cooking, crocheting and dance.

Among the other examples of positive activities and events at South Park in the past few months are:

- The 2005 **STEPS (Steps Towards Environmental Partnerships) program for teens** was based at South Park Community Center this summer and included 11 South Park teens recruited from community center programs and the nearby boxing club. In addition to work in the field on environmental restoration projects, the teens learned "life skills" such as job readiness and communications skills in the six-week program.
- **Fiestas Patrias:** The community center and advisory council partnered with SeaMar Community Health Center to sponsor this annual Mexican holiday, which drew more than 1,500 people on Sept. 17 for arts, crafts, food, entertainment, and activities for kids. South Park is home to one of Western Washington's largest Mexican communities.

Community center staff are brimming with more ideas to increase and improve programming. They are looking for funding to expand its computer lab programs and programs for senior adults. They are also exploring a possible boxing program in partnership with the Seamar Boxing Club.



Tennis Center Expansion Plans

Amy Yee Tennis Center Advisory Council members have met Parks staff to discuss an exciting and much anticipated possibility: plans for the expansion of the Tennis Center.

The goal is to develop an overall plan, including the addition of more indoor tennis courts. The Advisory Council received \$200,000 from the Pro Parks Opportunity Fund to re-construct the existing four outdoor courts and possibly to add two outdoor courts.

The Advisory Council has hired Andrea John-Smith to look into the "fundraising climate" with the expansion project in mind. Ms. John-Smith also working with Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center to help raise funds for its new facility.



Meadowbrook CC Assistant Coordinator Pam VanDeWeghe registers a customer using the CLASS software.

Registration Goes Online!

Seattle Parks and Recreation has entered the brave new world of ... online services.

On Aug. 29, eight community centers began offering online registration for fall quarter classes. Called SPARC (for Seattle Parks and Recreation Connections) the new system offers online registration for most classes and activities, except child care and citywide sports programs.

In the first month of availability at the eight sites, 800 customers browsed through the activities and information available on the web resulting in about 22 registrations. While the number of registrations seems low, the numbers will likely increase as people become more aware of this service. If you haven't already done so, check out the service on our web site: www.seattle.gov/parks

This was made possible by the installation of CLASS software at a total of 19 locations as part of the Pyramid Project. The Pyramid Project is a joint ARC and Parks endeavor to convert the Department to CLASS in order to automate registration, facility booking, and "point of sale" functions in all facilities.

Staff are pleased with the CLASS system because it is much more efficient than the manual way they have been doing their work. The software allows them to track revenues, registrations and attendance and has cut in half the time it takes to close out at the end of the evening. The new system also makes scholarship invoicing much easier.

The Pyramid Project began Phase 3 of deployment at the end of August, bringing on Magnuson, Green Lake, South Park and Yesler community centers. The remaining community centers (except for the closed Van Asselt site) will be using CLASS by the end of the December 2005. We hope

to bring CLASS to the small craft centers in January 2006, to the pools starting in late March, and to environmental learning centers by July.

Ken's Corner

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night—Southwest CC on Friday and Delridge on Saturday); keep sites open one hour later, to midnight, instead of the current 11 p.m. closure; and limit the program to youth from age 13 to 19.

- **Green Lake Hours Change:** Increased hours at Green Lake Community Center so that the center would open weekdays every day at 10 a.m. instead of the current 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.
 - **Downtown Parks:** Parks' proposed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget, includes more than \$1 million to enact the Mayor's initiative to revitalize downtown parks, especially Freeway Park, City Hall Park, and Occidental Park.
 - **CIP:** Also in the CIP, is funding for Capehart housing acquisition in Discovery Park, restoration of the West Point Lighthouse at Discovery, and acquisition and development of a new skatepark that will replace the one at Seattle Center.
 - **New Facilities Operations and Maintenance:** Also included is funding for staffing at expanded community centers (Southwest, Yesler) and new parks funded through the Pro Parks Levy and other sources.
 - **New Parks Programs:** The Proposed Budget includes funding for a pilot project to identify parks that are experiencing inappropriate use and to work with other departments and affected communities to increase programming and make other changes to restore the parks as safe and welcoming places.
 - **Pyramid Project:** This project is improving service to the public through better business practices and new computer software. (See article on this page of **Connections**.)
- Not in our budget, but still good news for Parks, is the proposed funding in the Department of Executive Administration budget for additional Animal Control enforcement in city parks to help us address the problem of off-leash dogs.
- I will let you know of any changes or additions that come about as a result of the current public process and review by the City Council. For more details on the Mayor's Proposed Budget, please visit www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/issues/budget/

—Ken Bounds, Superintendent

Credits

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Short Takes

Wild Waves Tickets: Yesler Community Center sold more than 1,500 Wild Waves tickets this summer, raising more than \$3,000 in revenue for the Yesler Advisory Council.

Back2School Bash: This event to celebrate the youth of Rainier Beach and help get them ready for school was held on Aug. 20 at Rainier Beach High School. More than 1,500 people attended. Participants received free backpacks and school supplies. Rainier Beach Community Coalition for Empowerment (RBCCE), Rainier Beach High School and Rainier Beach Advisory Council co-sponsored this year's Bash. This partnership has become a model for successful community/school partnerships to improve academic performance and the quality of life of Southeast Seattle youth.

Arts-in-Nature Festival: More than 1,000 people attended the festival at Camp Long, including 122 participating artists. The Camp Long Advisory Council co-sponsored the event with the Nature Consortium and took in \$700 in donations for the education fund. This was the first year the Youth Arts program kids represented Yesler Terrace and the King County Boys and Girls Club. The kids preformed, volunteered, and displayed their art.

Teen Program Grant Proposal: Delridge Community Center's Advisory Council along with Rainier Beach, Rainier, South Park, and Miller community centers submitted their letter of proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation requesting funds to increase access to technology resources and knowledge for low-income Seattle students at risk of academic failure.

Bitter Lake Advisory Council Grant: The Advisory Council was awarded a \$32,000 shoreline grant from King County. This will supplement the Park Upgrade Program and the King County Water Works Program to fund shoreline erosion control measures, habitat planting, paths, benches, and fencing along Bitter Lake.

Alki Community Center: Alki Advisory Council was awarded an \$8,500 Department of Neighborhoods grant to complete a feasibility study for renovating the Alki Community Center. Alki is one the oldest centers that has not received funding for renovations.

Discovery Park Calendar: Discovery Park celebrated its first annual calendar photo contest on Oct. 1. The calendar features the photographs of 13 local artists. Calendars are on sale at the Discovery Park Visitor Center for \$12. They look fantastic.

Cigarette? Don't Even Think About It!

Ten youth from various neighborhoods, including "high risk" teens, taught other children about the dangers of smoking this summer as part of the Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) program.

Funded by a grant from the local chapter of the American Lung Association, the teens were trained and certified as "TATU peer educators," and presented their no-smoking message at more than 13 community centers to youth ages 4 to 18. They created skits and poems and other activities. In one skit, for instance, a 15-year-old boy dressed as the Grim Reaper and visits friends at a party.

Besides peer education, TATU participants volunteered with the YES program and on community service projects. They also helped set up and went camping with staff from Jefferson Community Center to the San Juan Islands, where they removed non-native plants, and planted native grasses.

Overall, TATU kids completed 1,000 hours of community service.



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